

We claim:

1. A method for centralizing the capital expenditure approval process for expenditures by employees in the various departments of a company comprising the steps of:
 - a) identifying a defined number of departments within the company;
 - b) determining factors which must be considered as a prerequisite to the approval of capital expenditures sought by employees in each department;
 - c) using the factors to determine a defined number of levels of approvals required for each capital expenditure;
 - d) creating a database for the online computer system which stores the identification of the departments, the factors to be considered, and the requisite levels of approvals;
 - e) inputting into the online system information about a desired expenditure including the department which wants to incur the expenditure, and the factors pertaining to said expenditure;
 - f) using the online computer system to compare the inputted department identification and said created inputted factors with the database and generating a table of requisite approvers for said expenditure; and

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g) electronically routing the inputted information to each of said requisite approvers.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of identifying a defined number of departments includes the step of identifying all of the departments.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the factors which must be considered are the nature of the item to be purchased and the cost of the item.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the inputted information is routed to the requisite approvers in a sequential manner.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is performed by a computer system.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is incorporated into software.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is performed in a computer system.

8. A method used in a computer system for centralizing the capital expenditure approval process for expenditures by employees in the various departments of a company comprising the steps of:

a) identifying a defined number of departments within the company;

b) determining factors which must be considered as a prerequisite

to the approval of capital expenditures sought by employees in each department;

- c) using the factors to determine a defined number of levels of approvals required for each capital expenditure;
- d) creating a database for the online computer system which stores

the identification of the departments, the factors to be considered, and the requisite levels of approvals;

- e) inputting into the online system information about a desired expenditure including the department which wants to incur the expenditure, and the factors pertaining to said expenditure;
- f) using the online computer system to compare the inputted department identification and said created inputted factors with the database and generating a table of requisite approvers for said expenditure; and
- g) electronically routing the inputted information to each of said requisite approvers.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of identifying a defined number of departments includes the step of identifying all of the departments.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the factors which must be considered are the nature of the item to be purchased and the cost of the item.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the inputted information is routed to the requisite approvers in a sequential manner.

12. A computer system for centralizing the capital expenditure approval process for expenditures by employees in the various departments of a company comprising one or more computers and computer readable code embodying instructions executable by the one or more computers, the computer system comprising computer readable code devices configured to cause the one or more computers to effect the

- a) identification of a defined number of departments within the company;
- b) determination of factors which must be considered as a prerequisite to the approval of capital expenditures sought by employees in each department;
- c) use of the factors to determine a defined number of levels of approvals required for each capital expenditure;
- d) creation of a database for the online computer system which stores the identification of the departments, the factors to be considered, and the requisite levels of approvals;
- e) inputting into the online system information about a desired expenditure including the department which wants to incur the expenditure, and the factors pertaining to said expenditure;
- f) use of the online computer system to compare the inputted

department identification and said created inputted factors with the database and generating a table of requisite approvers for said expenditure; and

g) electronic routing the inputted information to each of said requisite approvers.

13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the identification of a defined number of departments includes the identification of all of the departments.

14. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the factors which must be considered are the nature of the item to be purchased and the cost of the item.

15. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the inputted information is routed to the requisite approvers in a sequential manner.

16. A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium for centralizing the capital expenditure approval process for expenditures by employees in the various departments of a company, the computer data signal comprising a code segment including instructions for

a) identifying a defined number of departments within the company;

b) determining factors which must be considered as a prerequisite to the approval of capital expenditures sought by employees in each department;

c) using the factors to determine a defined number of levels of approvals required for each capital expenditure;

d) creating a database for the online computer system which stores

the identification of the departments, the factors to be considered, and the requisite levels of approvals;

- e) inputting into the online system information about a desired expenditure including the department which wants to incur the expenditure, and the factors pertaining to said expenditure;
- f) using the online computer system to compare the inputted department identification and said created inputted factors with the database and generating a table of requisite approvers for said expenditure; and
- g) electronically routing the inputted information to each of said requisite approvers.

17. The computer data signal of claim 16 wherein the instructions for identifying a defined number of departments include instructions for identifying all of the departments.

18. The computer data signal of claim 16 wherein the factors which must be considered are the nature of the item to be purchased and the cost of the item.

19. The computer data signal of claim 16 wherein the inputted information is routed to the requisite approvers in a sequential manner.